

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for supporting a plurality of joists, the apparatus comprising:

a joist rim having a web and first and second rim legs extending substantially perpendicularly from the web, said first rim leg positioned vertically above said second rim leg, wherein said first rim leg is configured to support a compressive load thereon, and said second rim leg is configured to support said apparatus on a structure;

at least one opening through said web;

a joist attachment tab integrally formed in said web adjacent each said opening, each of said joist attachment tabs extending from the web at an angle relative to the web, said web being configured to transfer loads from said joist attachment tabs to said second rim leg, said web further being configured to transfer said compressive load from said first rim leg to said second rim leg; and

at least one reinforcing rib corresponding to each said tab and provided in each said web adjacent said corresponding tab.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the angle between each

attachment tab and the web is substantially ninety degrees.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each reinforcing rib is parallel to the adjacent tab.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing ribs comprise indentations that are embossed on a surface of the web.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the joist attachment tabs has a plurality of fastener holes there through.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first leg has a plurality of fastener holes therethrough.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second leg has a plurality of fastener holes therethrough.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the web has a plurality of fastener holes therethrough.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one other reinforcing rib adjacent each opening.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of

Application No. 10/601,404

Amendment in Response to Office Action of July 10, 2006

said joist attachment tabs comprises a portion of the web bent outward from another portion of said web at said angle.